

North Star Academy Charter School of Newark
Board of Trustees Meeting
6:00 p.m., Monday November 19th, 2018
43 Alexander St (Alexander Elementary Campus)

The trustees were in attendance: Rick Rieder, Lawrence Evans, Ravi Bellur, Jamey Verrilli, Bob Howitt, Ezdehar Abubatab, Tom Redburn, and Scott Sleyster. Absent trustees: Trisha Scipio-Derrick, Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Nicole Bearce. Also attending were: Michael Ambriz, Michael Mann, Juliana Worrell, Brett Peiser, Serena Savarirayan, Laura McGinley, Karin Gerald, Cyndi Leger, Elizabeth Lynch

The meeting was called to order at 6:23 p.m. by Mr. Ambriz, who noted that the meeting had been duly publicized, as required by law, in the Star Ledger and Luso Americano.

Mr Ambriz introduced North Star Academy's newly promoted regional leaders, Ms. Karin Gerald (Regional Senior Director) and Ms. Cyndi Leger (Managing Director of Operations). Each briefly introduced themselves to the board.

A motion was made to move to executive session. It having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:23 pm.

Mr. Ambriz reviewed the student discipline cases since the last meeting and shared the committee's recommendations for each case. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the aforementioned recommendation.

Ms. Laura McGinley presented a development update for North Star Academy. NSA has almost met its fundraising goal for the year. She described the strategy for sustainably funding NSA on an annual basis.

Mr. Brett Peiser presented proposal on how to update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Uncommon Schools and North Star Academy. He highlighted staff recognitions and student achievements across Uncommon, making the case that North Star Academy is better being a part of the larger whole with access to shared resources. Mr. Bob Howitt shared his calculations relating to NSA's new proposed management fee and supports the recommended changes.

Mr. Ambriz presented the personnel hires of Iris Nguyen and Kareen Thompson for North Star Leadership; Duanaya Elmore, Tiaja Harley, and Bethany Hipple for Washington Park High School; Ehennden Idehen-Amadasun, Rahat Rashid, and Michael Smyth for Lincoln Park High School; Dejanee Green and Tiye Wheeler for Downtown Middle School; Claudia Kemp for Clinton Hill Middle School; Cori Lynn Campbell for Vailsburg Middle School; Tracy Gonzalez and Cecily Hillman for Central Ave Middle School; John Cummings, Ralph Armand Densing, Dy'Asia Johnson, and Cierrah Parson for West Side Park Elementary School; Dana Bernardo and Marissa Marek for Liberty Elementary School; Keisha Little for Alexander Elementary School; and Naomi Anton and Marisol Arocho for Lincoln Park Elementary School.

After declaring a desire to return to open session, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to reconvene in open session at 7:16 p.m.

Mr. Ambriz presented the 2018-2019 Parent Council representatives to the Board who will represent the North Star Academy Washington Park High School and Vailsburg Middle School campuses. A motion was called to vote in Trisha Scipio-Derrick and Ezdehar Abu-Hatab as the Parent Council representatives, for a term of one year ending September 30, 2019. It having been moved and duly seconded, the trustees voted unanimously to approve these board members with the aforementioned term length.

After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the hiring of the aforementioned individuals.

It having been moved and duly seconded, the trustees voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the September 17th Board meeting.

Mr. Ambriz presented the recommendation from the NSA Student Hearing Committee. The committee recommended that student ZS to be expelled; EJ be suspended for 30 days; IE be suspended for 30 days.

After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the aforementioned recommendations.

Mr. Ambriz presented the preliminary resolution to renew the contract for bid HVAC-2019. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in the Preliminary Resolution to Award and Execute HVAC Service Contract.

Mr. Ambriz presented the preliminary resolution to bid for North Star Academy snow removal contract. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in the Multi Campus Snow Removal Request for Proposal.

Mr. Ambriz presented the resolution to approve the Unpaid Meal Policy. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in the NSA Unpaid Meal Policy.

Mr. Ambriz reviewed a recent HIB self-assessment, which found no incidence of HIB.

Mr. Ambriz facilitated a review of North Star Academy's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Newark Universal Enrollment System between NSA and Newark Public Schools. The board discussed changes to the agreement this year.

Mr. Bellur shared updates from the Finance Committee and shared the results from the FY 18 audit. It was a clean audit with minimal issues raised. The committee is satisfied with the new auditor firm.

Mr. Ambriz opened the floor for public comments:

Parent in attendance observed the meeting and commented on the ADA accessibility of the meeting space.

Mr. Ambriz presented the Financial Report. The following subjects were discussed:

- FY2018 Final Budget Transfer
- FY2019 Q1 Budget Transfer
- Check Register and Purchase Orders, 9/1/18 – 10/31/18
- Treasurer's Report, 9/1/18 – 10/31/18

It having been moved and duly seconded, the trustees voted unanimously to approve resolutions to accept the aforementioned reports.

Other business: Mr Ambriz shared updates

- Several high school students were surprised to visit Oprah and Michelle Obama

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING IS Monday, JANUARY 28th at 6:00 pm, AT THE NORTH STAR WEST SIDE PARK CAMPUS (571 18th Ave). Rick will bring dinner.